CARLTON CLUB.

(Ireland.)

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B I L L

For the better Preservation of Sheep, and the more speedy Detection of Sheep Stealers, in Ireland.

[Note.—The Words printed in *Italics* are proposed to be inserted in the Committee.]

Preamble.

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for the more speedy Detection of Sheep Stealers in Ireland; BE it therefore Enacted, by The QUEEN's most Excellent MAJESTY, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, THAT from and after the *passing of this Act* it shall and may be lawful for any Constable, by warrant under the hand and seal of any Justice of the Peace, founded upon information upon oath, to make a search in any suspected house, out-house or place, within the jurisdiction of such Justice, for any Sheep, Hagget or Lamb, stolen or supposed to be stolen; and if such Constable, so authorized as aforesaid, shall find any Sheep, Hagget or Lamb so stolen or suspected to be stolen, or any Mutton, Mutton Fat, Skin or Fleece, of any Sheep, Lamb or Hagget so stolen or supposed to be stolen, in the possession of any person suspected of stealing the same, or receiving the same being stolen, or in the house or out-house of any such person, with his knowledge, such Constable shall bring such suspected person before such Justice of the Peace, or before two or more Justices of the Peace assembled at Petty Sessions; and in case such person shall be so brought before such Justice of the Peace only by whom such warrant shall be issued, it shall be lawful for such Justice to admit such

1. Constable may search suspected Houses for Sheep, &c.

If any found which has been stolen, suspected person to be brought before Justice of Peace.

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such person to reasonable bail for his attendance at the next Petty Sessions of the district in which such Sheep, Hagget, Lamb, Mutton, Mutton Fat, Skin or Fleece shall be so found; and in default of such person giving such bail, and in case information shall be given to such Justice on oath that such Sheep, Hagget, Lamb, Mutton, Mutton Fat, Skin or Fleece was so found, it shall be lawful for such Justice to commit such person to the nearest Bridewell, or to some other place of secure confinement, there to remain until he shall give such bail, or until the next Petty Sessions of such district; and such person shall be brought before such Petty Sessions; and if such suspected person shall not, if so bailed, appear at such Petty Sessions, or shall not show to the satisfaction of two or more Justices assembled at Petty Sessions, that such Sheep, Hagget, Lamb, Mutton, Mutton Fat, Skin or Fleece, or all or any of them, were fairly and honestly bought, or otherwise come by, by such person, or given to him, her or them by the owner or proprietor thereof, and shall be convicted of the same upon the oath of any one credible witness before such Justices, such respective person, being convicted as aforesaid, shall forfeit and pay such sum of money, not exceeding Five Pounds, for every Sheep, Hagget, Lamb, Piece of Mutton, Mutton Fat, Skin or Fleece so found, as to such Justice shall seem reasonable, together with the charges previous to and attending such conviction, to be ascertained by such Justices who shall have convicted the offender as aforesaid; or upon the non-payment thereof, such Justices shall commit such offender to the Common Gaol or House of Correction of the county in which such offence shall have been committed, by warrant under their hand and seal, there to remain and to be kept to hard labour, without bail or mainprize, for any time not less than *Three* Weeks, nor exceeding *Three* calendar Months, or until the said penalty and charges, so ascertained as aforesaid, shall be paid; one moiety of such pecuniary penalty and the charges so ascertained to be paid to the Informer, and the other moiety to be divided by the Justices of the Peace before whom such conviction has been made, in equal portions, one portion to be given to the poor of the parish, and the other to be paid to the Receiver of the Constabulary acting in or for the district, to be applied to the Police Reward Fund: Provided always, That nothing herein contained shall prevent any person or persons not prosecuting under this Act from having such remedy as is provided by the laws now in being against Sheep Stealing, anything herein contained to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding.

If not proved to have been honestly come by, Penalty 5*l.* for each Sheep, besides Expenses.

On Non-payment, committed for time herein specified.

Application of Penalty.

2. Continuance of Act.

And be it Enacted, That this Act shall continue in force from the *passing thereof for Five Years, and no longer.*

And

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3.
Interpretation Clause.

And be it Enacted, That in the construction of this Act every word importing the singular only shall extend and be applied to several persons or things as well as one person or thing, and every word importing the masculine gender only shall extend and be applied to a female as well as a male.

4.
Act may be amended or repealed.

And he it Enacted, That this Act may be amended or repealed by any Act to be passed in this present Session of Parliament.

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Sheep Stealers.

(Ireland.)

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B I L L

For the better Preservation of Sheep, and the more speedy Detection of Sheep Stealers, in Ireland.

(*Prepared and brought in by Mr. Solicitor General for Ireland and Lord Viscount Morpeth.*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
18 *July* 1839.

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